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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/739,959	12/20/2000	Yoav Lorch	F8800.0136/P005	3720

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EXAMINER

RIMELL, SAMUEL G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2175

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/739,959

Applicant(s)

LORCH ET AL.

Examiner

Sam Rimell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is inoperable.

Claim 13: Claim 13 calls for the step of replacing a first recipient postal address with a new recipient address without modifying the first recipient address. Since replacement is an act of modification, it is impossible to perform the recited combination of steps. The invention as claimed is thus inoperable.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-12 and 14-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stolfo et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2001/0044785).

Claim 1: Paragraph 0089, lines 7-12, describes the steps of detecting a proxy address on a postal mailpiece at a US Postal Service (USPS) office. As seen in paragraphs 0075 through 0083, the proxy address and real address are linked. As sated in paragraph 0027, lines 4-8, this linkage is maintained by usage of a database. Using software at the USPS office, the proxy address is converted to the real address and printed on a postcard. The post card is then used to identify the correct delivery address of the package.

Claim 2: Paragraph 0089, lines 7-12 describes the steps of detecting the symbol that forms the proxy address.

Claim 3: Paragraph 0079 through 0083 discloses a proxy address. Paragraphs 0075 through 0078 discloses a real postal address. The proxy address and real address are input into a system (FIG. 1) that includes a secured server and database (104) that maintains the relationship between the proxy address and the real address.

Claim 4: The server (108) in FIG. 1 is the storage medium which stores the database that associates the proxy address to the real address.

Claim 5: The proxy address is unique to the user. This assures that the proxy address will not match another proxy address in the database.

Claim 6: The input proxy address complies with an addressing protocol, in that it includes a zip code.

Claim 7: Any of the data in the proxy address (paragraphs 0079 through 0083) are readable as predefined symbols.

Claims 8-10: Any characters may used to form the proxy address. Paragraph 0052 illustrates the “#” and “@” symbols being used, although other characters available on a computer keyboard, such as the “%” could be used as well.

Claim 11: The proxy address format illustrated in paragraphs 0079 through 0083 are predefined by the system. The proxy format is an encrypted name, an encrypted street address, followed by a standard P.O. box, a city and a zip code.

Claim 12: If a second package is mailed to the same address by a different person, it will create a second record in the database with a different proxy address (different name of sender)

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but the same postal address. The first and second record are related by being in the same database.

Claim 14: The input proxy address is input from a recipient living at the real postal address.

Claim 15: See remarks for claim 1.

Claim 16: See remarks for claim 2.

Claim 17: See remarks for claim 3.

Claim 18: Paragraph 0089, lines 7-12 disclose the steps of detecting the proxy address in order to generate a real address on a post card. The real address is the mail handling instruction. The parcel is delivered to the address on the post card, at the real address.

Claim 19: A delivery address is considered to be mail forwarding instruction.

Claim 20: The P.O. box recited on the real address is considered to be a "mail holding instruction", since mail is sent to and held at the P.O. box.

Claim 21: The zip code on the real address is considered to be a routing instruction.

Claim 22: Paragraph 0089, lines 7-12 disclose the steps of detecting a proxy address and converting the proxy address to a real address. The US Postal service can inherently track packages, such as by Priority Mail and Express Mail services.

Claim 23: Sending a standard envelope having postage fixed thereon is considered to be pre-paid postage.

Claim 24: The inherent practice of having a postal work analyze a P.O. Box address and deliver the mailpiece to the specified P.O. Box on the mailpiece is considered to be an act of analysis of mail flow.

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Claim 25: The proxy address is also associated with a credit card (paragraph 0027, lines 4-8). A credit has an expiration date, or “time out”.

Claim 26: See remarks for claim 1. The computer readable storage medium is the database which links the proxy address to the real address. The database interface computer is the computer located at the USPS post office (paragraph 0089, lines 7-12) which decodes the proxy address and converts it into a real address.

Claim 27: The computer at the USPS post office which converts the proxy address to the real address generates a post card which is affixed to the mailpiece.

Claim 28: FIG. 1 illustrates a computer network.

Claim 29: The network may be the Internet (claim 27 of Stolfo et al.).

Claims 30: The second database interface is the user computer (106).

Claim 31: If a second package is mailed to a different street address in the same zip code, it creates a new record in the database having a different postal address (different street) but same proxy address (same zip code). The first record and second record are related by being in the same database.

Claim 32: If a second package is mailed to the same address by a different person, it will create a second record in the database with a different proxy address (different name of sender) but the same postal address. The first record and second record are related by being in the same database.

Claim 33: The system uses an authentication server (114) to authorize users.

Claim 34: See remarks for claim 1.

Claim 35: See remarks for claim 2.

Claim 36: See remarks for claim 18.

Claim 37: See remarks for claim 33.

Claim 38: See remarks for claim 11.

Claim 39: Paragraph 0027 establishes a database which correlates a proxy address to a real address. Paragraphs 0075 through 0083 establish one example of a real address and its correlated proxy address.

Claim 40: See remarks for claim 4.

Claim 41: See remarks for claim 5.

Claim 42: See remarks for claim 6.

Claim 43: See remarks for claim 1.

Claim 44: See remarks fro claim 2.

Claim 45: See remarks for claim 6.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sam Rimell at telephone number (703) 306-5626.



Sam Rimell
Primary Examiner
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